

# Music

Britain is known all over the world for its musicians, composers and pop stars. It's also well-known for adapting music styles from other places, like American rock 'n' roll, rhythm and blues, and hip-hop, and for creating its own unique sounds as well!

## Different kinds of British music

Before recorded music, songs were remembered by being played. Each performance of folk music was unique, as musicians interpreted the music differently. Some famous folk songs include: *Greensleeves*, *Flower of Scotland* (the unofficial Scottish national anthem) and *Sosban Fach*.

In the 1970s, people from Manchester, Wigan and Blackpool started finding rare and lesser-known R & B records from America.

It was the first time the DJ was the centre of attention, rather than a band. This kind of music was called Northern soul.

In the late 1970s, punk rock started in London. It came from the feeling that music could be wild, silly and rule-breaking, and that it didn't have to be precise or rehearsed.

Punk bands include The Clash, The Sex Pistols, The Stranglers and The Undertones.

Grime is a British version of American hip-hop. Both focus on the way singers or rappers tell stories – in grime, though, the artist often repeats a phrase so that it has different meanings.

The Glaswegian indie rock band Franz Ferdinand formed in 2002. Known for their quirky lyrics and offbeat sound, they won two BRIT Awards, a Mercury Prize and an MTV Video Music Award. They have sold over six million records!

1960s

1970s

1980s

1990s

2000s

now



Music that has been written down by composers and is performed by big orchestras and choirs is known as classical music.

The most famous British composers include Edward Elgar, Ralph Vaughan Williams and Benjamin Britten.

Four boys who grew up in Liverpool, listening to American rock 'n' roll, went on to become the biggest-selling band of all time.

During the mid-1960s, The Beatles and their Merseybeat sound became more famous than any of the musicians they'd listened to.

The culture and community of 1990s Britain was channelled into music by bands like Blur, Pulp and Oasis in a brighter, catchier rock style called Britpop.

The Spice Girls, five singers from Leeds, Essex, Lancashire, London and Hertfordshire, are the biggest-selling girl group in the world!

Formed in 1994, they soon became famous for singing catchy songs about friendship, having fun and girl power.



There are many great British bands, artists and music groups – almost too many to mention! Here are just some of the most famous British musicians:

- Amy Winehouse
- Tom Jones
- Elton John
- Take That
- The Smiths
- Queen
- Ed Sheeran
- Sting
- Dizzee Rascal
- Stormzy
- David Bowie
- Kaiser Chiefs
- Mumford and Sons
- Ozzy Osbourne
- Calvin Harris
- M.I.A.
- Shirley Bassey
- Led Zeppelin
- Coldplay
- George Ezra
- Van Morrison
- Snow Patrol
- Emili Sandé
- Adele
- The Rolling Stones
- Phil Collins
- Morrissey
- Kate Bush
- Pink Floyd
- Blur
- George Michael
- One Direction
- Craig David
- Iron Maiden



Read through the information about British bands, musicians and artists. Answer the questions below (I've started with questions about the information above the timeline for the first 5, then questions 6-10 are about the information underneath the timeline if you wanted to break up the reading!):

1. Name one famous folk song?
2. What is Northern soul music?
3. Where did punk rock music start?
4. Grime is a British version of what type of American music?
5. What band from Glasgow formed in 2002?
6. Name one famous British classical composer?
7. Where did the members of the Beatles grow up?
8. Name one band that was Britpop in style?
9. When were the Spice Girls formed?
10. Name one British band, artist or music group that you have not heard of from the list in the bottom right hand corner. Name one British band, artist or music group that you **have** heard of:

The final part of your music assignment is to listen to a piece of music by each of the answers you gave to question number 10! I'd love to hear what you think of them- have you found your new favourite band? Do mum and dad know the artists you have written down? Do they sound similar to any other music you've heard before?